(b) whether any difficulties have been encountered in implementing the policy; and

(c) whether Government propose to sponsor a series of colloquia to discuss the modalities for improving language teaching at the primary level?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Dr. Radhakrishan Commission was concerned with University education and made no recommendation regarding the teaching of languages at the primary stage.

The Kothari Commission (1964—66) had recommended the introduction of one language i.e. the mother tongue or the regional language at the stage of primary education (Class I to IV). This recommendation was accepted in the statement on National Policy on Education issued by the Government of India in 1968.

Generally speaking, this recommendation has been implemented throughout the country.

While mother tongue is used as medium of instruction, regional language has also been introduced at upper primary stage in many of the States/Union Territories. In some parts of the country, like Sikkim, Nagaland and Mizoram, English is taught as the first language and as a medium of instruction.

(b) There have been no difficulties encountered in implementing the policy regarding the introduction of mother tongue/regional language at the primary stage.

(c) The Government and the educational agencies at national and state levels have been making efforts to improve language education at the primary level as a part of the nation-wide efforts to improve the quality of primary education.

Bill to make Primary Education Compulsory

1155. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to bring forward a Bill to make primary education compulsory;

(b) if so, by when and whether the Bill will be binding on both Government and Non-Government institutes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) The Constitution (Eighty-Third Amendment) Bill, 1997 to make right to free and compulsory education for children in the age-group of 6 to 14 years a Fundamental Right was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on July 28, 1997.

The Bill, inter-alia, provides that the State shall not make any law for free and compulsory education in relation to educational institutions not maintained by the State or not receiving aid out of State funds.

The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Constitution (Eighty Third Amendment) Bill, 1997 is under examination. It is felt that a wider debate on the implications of the proposed legislation should be initiated.

विश्वविद्यालय-निधियों के दुरुपयोग की सी० बी० आई० द्वारा जांच किया जाना

1156. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार इन्दिरा गांधी मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति द्वारा विश्वविद्यालय निधि तथा गैर-योजना शीर्ष के करोड़ों रुपए के दुरुपयोग के आरोपों की केन्द्रीय